(b) and (c) Concessional rates of excise duty are available to diesel oil supplied for use in deep sea fishing vessels of not less than 150 B.H.P. and length not less than 13.7 metres. The question of extending the concession to smaller fishing vessels was examined but it was not found feasible, because of serious administrative difficulties and risk to revenue.

Peerless General Finance and Investment Company

*108. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime back the Reserve Bank of India carried out a special scrutiny and audit of the activities of the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company;

(b) if so, whether the audit was simultaneously conducted in a number of regional and branch offices of the Company; and

(c) whether on the basis of special scrutiny and audit the Reserve Bank has finalised any report and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has conducted inspection of the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited (Peerless) under Section 45N of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 with reference to the Company's position as on 31-12-1987. Besides, the Head Office of the Peerless at Calcutta, four regional offices located at Calcutta, Bombay, New Delhi and Madras and a few branches were also inspected. The report of the inspection has not yet been finalised by RBI.

Pensions to Freedom Fighters from Andhra Pradesh

*109. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons from Andhra Pradesh are recipients of freedom fighters' pension at present;

(b) how many applications are still pending with the Ministry and how many are pending before the Screening Committee appointed to look into the cases of erstwhile Hyderabad freedom fighters; and

(c) whether it is a fact that on receiving complaints about undeserving persons receiving pension, Scrutiny Committees have been appointed for Karim Nagar, Warangal and Khammam districts; if so, how many cases have so far been scrutinized and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) As on 31-8-1988, 9117 freedom fighters of Andhra Pradesh have been sanctioned Central Freedom Fighters' Pension.

(b) 33 applications are pending for want of verification reports/clarifications from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. No application is at present pending before the Hyderabad Special Screening Committee appointed to look into the cases of earstwhile Hyderabad freedom fighters. The Committee, however, will have to consider about 500 more cases.

(c) No such Scrutiny Committee has been appointed by the Central Government.